

Michigan Office News

Secretary Castro visits Detroit!

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Picture above L to R (background): Secretary Castro, DHC Executive Director Kelly Lyons, and DHC Resident Commissioner, Rosanna Johnson. Mayor Duggan speaks at the Podium.

On March 31st, HUD Secretary Julián Castro visited Detroit to announce the return of the Detroit Housing Commission (DHC) to local control after nearly a decade of federal oversight. Mayor Mike Duggan hosted a press conference at the Woodbridge Estates Community Center with Secretary Castro and DHC Executive Director Kelley Lyons to discuss the process, which was effective March 16th.



Above Secretary Castro speaks to Detroit Field Office staff.



Above L to R: Detroit Federal Working Group, Clifton Kellogg, HUD Public Housing Assistant Secretary, Lourdes Castro Ramirez; Secretary Castro; DHC ED, Kelly Lyons, Resident Commissioner, Rosanna Johnson and Detroit Mayor Duggan.



HUD staff come out strong to Welcome Secretary Castro to the Detroit Field Office.

Our HUD Leaders

Left—Regional Administrator, Antonio Riley;
Center—Secretary Castro and ;
Right—Detroit Field Office Director, Michael Polsinelli.



“Until We meet again.....”

This quote is Rebecca Barber's way of saying Farewell to the Detroit HUD office where she has worked for Multifamily Housing the past eight years. Although we are sad to see her go, we know she is embarking on a wonderful journey soon with her husband, Steve to Thailand as volunteer missionaries through the Church of the Nazarene.

Rebecca and Steve's first and primary task will be learning the language and culture of Thailand. Along with that they will be starting Bible studies for anyone interested in talking about spiritual things or learning about Christianity. They also hope to transition to work visas in the near future to assist in other areas in support of the church's field office in Bangkok.

We, at HUD admire such dedication and wish them both safe travels and a successful outcome.

If anyone would like to receive newsletters/updates from Rebecca and Steve during their quest, you can sign up at: <http://www.kmrsbarber.com/Newsletter.aspx>.

Detroit staff luncheon for Rebecca at the Hard Rock Café on May 12th.

There was also a cake celebration and well wishes given to Rebecca & her husband, Steve as they begin a new chapter in their lives.



Grand Rapids Service Providers to participate in regional Pay for Success Project

On May 19, the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) as a grantee of the Social Innovation Fund's Pay for Success (PFS) program and its partner, the Calvert Foundation announced that West Michigan providers were one of five communities selected for a nationwide asthma initiative.

Spectrum Health and Priority Health will be working with West MI agencies—Health Net, Asthma Network and Healthy Homes Coalition in a collaborative effort with GHHI to conduct feasibility studies of PFS models that fund home-based asthma interventions, including remediation of asthma triggers and resident education.

In an article by Kyle Moroney posted on MLive.com, Executive Director, Paul Haan, of the Healthy Homes Coalition stated that “This project will make kids’ houses healthier, and the financing strategy makes this work truly sustainable.”

Priority Health Associate Vice President of Medical Affairs, John L. Fox, MD also made this statement—“We have long recognized that access to high quality healthcare is not the sole determinant of health. In fact environmental factors socio-economic factors and others play important roles.

Westland Youth At Work!

DETROIT SERVICE PIN CELEBRATION

On June 16th, service pin milestones were celebrated for 12 employees in an all staff meeting followed by an Ice Cream Social !

Honorees: 10 –Alexandra Gramer (OIG), Amanda Shaughnessy (Legal); 15- Larry Alcantar (FHEO), Terri Sanchez (FPM); 20– Mike Catinella (OIG), Gerald Henry (CPD); 25– Chris Cook (MF), Martha Stallworth (CPD), Lindsey Reames (PIH), Gwen Tolbert (LR); Kelly McIntyre-Konkle (MF); 30– Jinane English (PIH); 35– Cheryl Mathis (CPD)



Above: (L-R) Jinane English (PIH) and Terri Sanchez (FPM) who received their HUD service pins for 30 and 15 years respectively.

In a partnership between the City of Westland and the William D. Ford Career Technical Center Construction Trades, Wayne-Westland students are getting hands-on building skills.

Furthermore, the partners are a Michigan Dept. of Education Excellence in Practice Award winner!

With federal dollars from HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, the community has been able get projects done they might not have been able to do otherwise while the students further develop skills necessary for future job potential.

Since 2011, the City of Westland has taken blighted properties and

put new homes in their place. Each year, a new home is built and sold to a first-time homebuyer. Each home includes green building practices , including Energy Star certification.

The city 's Homebuyer Assistance Program is also used to assist with home purchases.

In addition, the students recently completed renovations at the new Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, which was funded with a HUD Section 108 loan.

Health Check—2015

Walking for Health



Top: The Detroit Field Office getting ready to start its 3.5 mile walk on the Detroit Riverfront.



Right: The Midway Point . Great participation, great weather, and great conversations!

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Department of Opportunity



Youth Are Our Priority: Supporting Boys and Young Men of Color in Flint

The City of Flint has accepted President Barack Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" (MBK) challenge to improve opportunities for boys and young men of color. On May 13, several public figures from Genesee County united to discuss systematic biases toward young black males, mentorship and setting positive examples at the Flint My Brother's Keeper Community Forum held at the Mott Community College Regional Technology Center Auditorium. The session was moderated by Gary Jones, from U.S. Representative Dan Kildee's office.

Previously, on May 4, Mayor Walling announced the formation of a MBK Task Force. The task force will consist of 12 members chosen by the Mayor including residents of Flint and young adults ages 16 to 25. Nominations will be accepted through May 28th.

The focus of providing positive support to youth of color will be on three major areas: skills, safety and service.

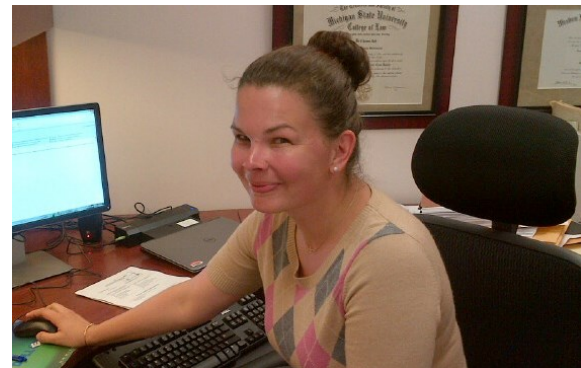
"We need to do more to offer opportunities to our young men of color all across the city, especially in north Flint. We all have to take on this responsibility. With the My Brother's Keeper initiative, we are committing to working together with our young men so they fulfill their potential."

Dayne Walling, Mayor of the City of Flint

Meet our Employee of the Month

Amanda Shaughnessy

- What is your role at HUD? *Attorney Advisor*
- If you could switch your job with anyone else within HUD, whose job would you want? *The Secretary's*
- What are 3 words to describe HUD? *I think the Detroit Office is dedicated, inclusive and accommodating.*
- What is the favorite part about working for HUD? *I enjoy seeing buildings or even entire blocks rehabilitated because of financing that I have worked on.*
- Any random facts you could share with us? *I can't wink.*
- Best vacation you've been on? *My husband and I took two weeks and drove across the country. We started in Detroit and stayed in St Louis, Albuquerque, Sedona, Las Vegas, Denver, and Chicago before coming home.*
- Do you recall any embarrassing moment at work? *HA! Even if I did recall I wouldn't publish it in a newsletter!*
- If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you? *Jenifer Lawrence*
- If you were an animal what would you be? *A cat, they get to sleep a lot.*



- Tell us a little bit about your family. *My husband and I have been married 7 years this month. We both come from big families and counting in-laws and step siblings I have 24 siblings. We have 2 little boys, Bryce who is 4, and Carter, who is 2, you may see them terrorizing the office from time to time or see their artwork on the white boards.*
- What's on your bucket list? *Go to the Kentucky Derby; Hike into the Grand Canyon and White Water Raft down the Colorado River; Visit all the Major League Baseball Parks; Drive the coast from Seattle to San Diego; See Michigan State play in the Rose Bowl.*